

E84 Studies in Film Scholarship: Film and Consciousness

Kleinhaus, Spring 79  
W F 113, 11-1

Prerequisite: D87-1, 2.

The seminar will examine attempts to use Marxist and Freudian concepts in developing a theory of consciousness and the application of such work to film. The first six weeks will be used for background reading and discussion. The seventh, eighth and ninth weeks will consist of screenings and informal discussion; during this time students will be writing their seminar papers. The last week of class and exam week will be used for the presentation of seminar papers: work must be completed on time.

Each student will make one ten minute presentation of an assigned reading to the group. This can take any form: historical background, exposition of ideas, questions raised by the reading, etc. The final paper (2500-3500 wds) must be distributed in advance (48 hours) to members of the seminar. Each paper will be presented for group discussion of about 45 minutes.

I assume all students have a basic familiarity with Marxism (from D87-2) and psychoanalysis. I've assigned a book for basic background reading-- Bruce Brown, Marx, Freud and the Critique of Everyday life, which should be read before the course or during the first two weeks. It would also be good to review Norman Holland's Dynamics of Literary Response and Laura Mulvey's essay "Narrative Cinema and Visual Pleasure." Because the topic provides a useful focus for issues in the course, we will spend several classes on the presentation of sexuality, the erotic, and pornography in films. To encourage freer discussion we will break into single sex groups for two discussions. (Michelle Citron will lead the ~~other~~ women's discussion.) ch 2,3,4

- March 28 ✓ introduction: Marx meets Freud at a gay porn movie
- March 30 ✓ Hans Magnus Enzensberger, "On the Irresistability of the Petty Bourgeoisie" Telos 30  
✓ Richard Lichtman, "Marx and Freud" Socialist Revolution 30 ✓  
and "Marx and Freud, Part 2: Antagonistic Themes" SR 33
- April 4 ✓ Lichtman, "Marx and Freud, Part 3: Marx's Theory of Human Nature" SR 36
- April 6 ✓ WR: MYSTERIES OF THE ORGANISM (Makavejev)  
Read: Wilhelm Reich, Sex-Pol (selections)
- April 11 discussion of WR, Reich, and Laing  
Read: R. Laing, The Politics of Experience
- April 13 ✓ SISTERS (DePalma)  
✓ Read: Norman Holland and Leona Sherman, "Gothic Possibilities" New Literary History v. 8:2  
✓ Barbara Leaming, "Towards a Psychoanalytic Reading of the System(s) of a Contemporary American Film" Cine-Tracts 3



- April 18 discussion of SISTERS  
MAIN STREET (Seiter)
- April 20 Christian Metz, "The Imaginary Signifier" Screen
- April 25 ✓ Metz, "The Fiction Film and Its Spectator" NLH 8:1  
✓ Metz, "History/Discourse" Edinburgh 76
- April 27 Pornography and the Erotic (single sex discussion)  
reading: a bibliography will be distributed the first day  
of class. We will do some shared readings, but everyone  
will also do exploratory reading from the bibliography.  
(NB this class may be rescheduled if it conflicts with  
Chuck's screenings for experimental at the Art Institute)
- May 2 Discussion and screening  
✓ FUSES (Carolee Schneeman)  
✓ ~~near~~ NEAR THE BIG CHAKRA (Anne Severson)  
✓ Aggy Read BOOBS A LOT
- May 4 ✓ LOVEMAKING (Scott Bartlett)  
✓ DYKETACTICS (Barbara Hammer) *written in Canyon Cinema*  
✓ PSYCHOSYNTHESIS (Hammer) *Heresies*
- May 9 Presentation of her photography, Carole Harmel  
✓ DESIRE PIE (Lisa Crofts)
- May 11 Screening at the Film Center, School of the Art Institute  
time to be arranged--  
HIMSELF AS HIMSELF (Markopoulos), Kenneth Anger, and others  
(optional reading: Balzac's story Seraphita, source of the  
Markopoulos film, and a neat puzzle for S/Z fans)
- May 16 MACUNAIMA (Pedro de Andrade, Brazil)
- May 18 Class rescheduled for the Film Division Seminar on Subcultures,  
Saturday May 19.
- May 23 CELINE AND JULIE GO BOATING (Rivette) (will probably be  
scheduled for late afternoon or evening: 193 minutes)  
discussion follows with Julia Lesage
- May 25 A NOUS LA LIBERTE (Clair)
- May 30, June 1, and exam week: student papers presented in class

*paper ideas by May 1st.*